

INFORMATION REPORT

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 USIA Enterprises
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1. Since the Communist victory in Czechoslovakia, Austrian Communists in all industries, especially in the USIA-controlled enterprises, have been increasingly active. They are urging strikes and demonstrations, praising the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia, and trying to influence the workers to form "Action Committees" in the factories so as to strengthen worker demands on the government. Although these efforts elicit no response from older and more experienced Socialist workers, they appear to have some effect on the younger Socialists. The shop councils believe this is leading to an increased leftward tendency among the workers, plus a vacillating attitude on their part, which makes more difficult the task of the shop councils in restraining the workers from acts of disorder and violence.
2. In some of the USIA factories, there is an upswing in the number of dismissals of older skilled Socialist workers. By using the decline in production as an excuse, Wagner-Biro, a USIA enterprise, laid off seventy Socialist workers in the last week of February 1948.
3. Since 27 February 1948, a council of the Communist Party Central Committee has been in continuous session. Plans are being discussed for an all-out offensive in Austria some three months hence, which will be carried out on the model of the Czechoslovak putsch. The preliminaries are to take the form of strikes and demonstrations calculated to throw the Austrian economy and the population into complete chaos.

Deliveries from Czechoslovakia to Austria are being paralyzed by the Czechoslovak Communists. Deliveries awaited by Siemens-Schuckert from Czechoslovakia have not been received, and all efforts on the part of Siemens to expedite delivery have been unavailing.

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